

## Message Text

SECRET

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21/13

ORIGIN NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 PRS-01 MC-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00

OMB-01 EUR-10 L-02 /061 R

DRAFTED BY:NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

DOD/ISA/NEAS - MR NOYES

PM/MAS:DFARNHAM

DOD/DSAA-MR VIOLETTE

NEA/EGY:MSTERNER

----- 054442

O R 242218Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

USMTM DHARHAN

DIA

CSAF

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 190079

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 LINES 3& 4 MISSING)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH AIRCRAFT SALES TO SAG

REF: JIDDA 4075

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NOTED RECENT REPORTS INDICATING THAT SAG

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ACTIVELY DISCUSSING SAUDI PURCHASE OF FRENCH MIRAGE III AND

IS ALSO AWARE OF UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT LETTER OF INTENT APPARENTLY SIGNED BETWEEN SAG AND DASSAULT. WE FEEL TIME HAS COME TO ASK SAG WHETHER THERE SUBSTANCE THESE REPORTS

2. ACCORDINGLY, CHARGE SHOULD AT NEXT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY RAISE PRESS REPORTS WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN. HE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT AS PRINCE AWARE: (A) WE HAVE EXRESSED OUR WILLINGNESS TO SELL PHANTOM F-4S AND TECHNICAL TEAM HAS BEEN BRIEFING HIM ON AIRCRAFT; (B) WE ARE AWARE OF SULTAN'S INTEREST IN POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL F5-ES; (C) WE ARE SEEKING TO HELP SAG EVALUATE ITS MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS IN EVENT ACQUISITION OF MORE SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT; AND (D) THROUGH PRESENCE OF USMTM, WE SEEKING ADVISE SAUDIS ON FORCE STRUCTURE. WE WOULD THEREFORE BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF SAUDIS ARE STILL EXAMINING VARIOUS OPTIONS OR IF THERE SERIOUS INTENTION TO PURCHASE MIRAGES AS NEWSPAPER REPORTS ALLEGE AND, IF SO, WHAT THEIR MISSION WOULD BE.

3. FYI. PRESS HERE HAS BEEN ASKING POINTED QUESTIONS DESIGNED DISCOVER WHETHER THERE IS ANY LINK BETWEEN REPORTED SAUDI INTEREST IN MIRAGE III AND U.S. OFFER OF F-4. WHILE WE NOTE REFTEL ASSESSMENT THAT THESE FRENCH AIRCRAFT IF PURCHASED ARE LIKELY DESTINED FOR EGYPTIAN USE, WE NEED TO ATTEMPT PIN DOWN SAUDIS' INTENTIONS DIRECTLY WITH THEM. END FYI. RUSH

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NNN

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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 24 SEP 1973  
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**To:** JIDDA KUWAIT PARIS TEHRAN TEL AVIV CAIRO USMTM DHAHRAN DIA CSAF USCINCEUR  
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